

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) In combination:

a fluid filter centerpost assembly comprising:

a main body defining a first flow opening and an open interior and having an oval shape in lateral cross section;

an oval-shaped radial flange;

an oval-shaped interior shelf defining a second flow opening and being positioned on an incline in said open interior;

a closing cap assembled into said main body; and

a movable valve ball positioned on said interior shelf; and

a fluid filter cartridge received by said fluid filter centerpost assembly comprising:

a filtering media;

a closed endcap assembled to one end of said filtering media, said closed endcap including a blocking pin, said blocking pin being constructed and arranged for limiting any movement of said movable valve ball in the direction of said second flow opening;

an open endcap assembled to another end of said filtering media;

and

an oval-shaped seal received by said open endcap and being positioned around said main body and resting on said radial flange.

2. (original) The combination of claim 1 wherein said main body is a unitary, molded plastic structure.

3. (currently amended) The combination of claim 2 wherein said interior shelf defines a track for guiding ~~the~~ any movement of said valve ball.

4. (new) In combination:

a fluid filter centerpost assembly comprising:

a main body defining a first flow opening and an open interior and having an oval shape in lateral cross section;

an oval-shaped radial flange;

an oval-shaped interior shelf defining a second flow opening and being positioned on an incline in said open interior;

a closing cap assembled into said main body; and

a movable valve ball positioned on said interior shelf; and

a fluid filter cartridge received by said fluid filter centerpost assembly comprising:

a filtering media;

a first endcap assembled to one end of said filtering media;

a second endcap assembled to another end of said filtering media;

an oval-shaped seal received by said second endcap and being positioned around said main body and resting on said radial flange; and

blocking means for limiting any movement of said movable valve ball in the direction of said second flow opening.

5. (new) The combination of claim 4 wherein said main body is a unitary, molded plastic structure.

6. (new) The combination of claim 5 wherein said interior shelf defines a track for guiding any movement of said valve ball.

7. (new) The combination of claim 4 wherein said blocking means includes a protrusion extending from said first endcap in the direction of said second flow opening.

8. (new) The combination of claim 4 wherein said filtering media is shaped with a hollow interior and said fluid filter cartridge further includes a centertube positioned within said hollow interior.

9. (new) The combination of claim 8 wherein said blocking means includes a structural member positioned within said centertube and a protrusion extending from said structural member in the direction of said second flow opening.

10. (new) In combination:

a fluid filter centerpost assembly comprising:

- a main body defining a first flow opening and an open interior and having an oval shape in lateral cross section;
- an oval-shaped radial flange;
- an oval-shaped interior shelf defining a second flow opening and being positioned on an incline in said open interior;
- a closing cap assembled into said main body; and
- a movable valve ball positioned on said interior shelf; and

a fluid filter cartridge received by said fluid filter centerpost assembly comprising:

- a filtering media formed into a shape to define a hollow interior;
- a first endcap assembled to one end of said filtering media;
- a second endcap assembled to another end of said filtering media;
- an oval-shaped seal received by said second endcap and being positioned around said main body and resting on said radial flange; and
- a support plug positioned in said hollow interior, said support plug including a blocking pin extending in the direction of said second flow opening for limiting any movement of said movable valve ball in the direction of said second flow opening.

11. (new) The combination of claim 10 wherein said main body is a unitary, molded plastic structure.

12. (new) The combination of claim 11 wherein said interior shelf defines a track for guiding any movement of said valve ball.

13. (new) The combination of claim 12 wherein said support plug includes an alternate blocking pin extending in a direction opposite to the direction of said blocking pin.

14. (new) The combination of claim 13 wherein said support plug is constructed and arranged to be assembled into said hollow interior in either of two orientations wherein one orientation has said blocking pin extending toward said second flow opening and wherein the other orientation has said alternate blocking pin extending toward said second flow opening.

15. (new) The combination of claim 10 wherein said support plug includes an alternate blocking pin extending in a direction opposite to the direction of said blocking pin.

16. (new) The combination of claim 15 wherein said support plug is constructed and arranged to be assembled into said hollow interior in either of two orientations wherein one orientation has said blocking pin extending toward said second flow opening and wherein the other orientation has said alternate blocking pin extending toward said second flow opening.